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SUBJECT Cold Rubber Production at Bunawerke, Schkopau

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1. Cold rubber (Tieftemperatur-Kautschuk) production is designated by the letter "T" in Bunawerke. Just prior to Dr. Johne's departure from Bunawerke, it was planned to commence mass production of cold rubber. Up to the time of Dr. Johne's departure, small scale production of approximately 3 tons per operation had been achieved.
2. The cold rubber department received approximately 10 tons of raw materials per month from the polymerization department. The resultant cold rubber was not well received by the East German industries which used rubber. They much preferred the Buna S 3 type which, although it had not the same elasticity as the cold rubber, was in some respects better, in addition to being much cheaper.
3. Large scale experiments in the production of cold rubber stopped with the departure of Dr. Johne. Although comprehensive notes exist on production methods, the experience gained by Dr. Johne in his experiments is lacking since his sole collaborator was Obermeister Koll, whose collaboration usually consisted in merely carrying out Dr. Johne's orders. Mere formulae are not sufficient for carrying on experiments. The danger of explosion is very great and the exact maintenance of calculated temperatures is of the highest importance. The principal obstacle to large scale production is the difficulty of obtaining the necessary refrigeration plant from Western Europe.
4. At the beginning of August 1952, the chemist Dr. Herte was asked to study the notes left by Dr. Fischer and Dr. Johne and, when he considered himself sufficiently informed, to continue with the experiments from the point at which they had been abandoned. Dr. Herte stated that the reading process and initial experiments with the pilot plant would take him at least a year.
5. The members of the Buna staff mentioned below are key personnel and should they leave East Germany, not only would experiments in the further development of synthetic rubber cease, but maintenance of actual production at its present level

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would be greatly endangered because of the inflammable and highly explosive nature of the compounds used in its manufacture.

a) Dr. Friedrich Moll

Dr. Moll is production chief (Produktionsleiter) and a specialist in all phases of synthetic rubber production. He would be extremely difficult to replace, especially as Director Dr. Nelles is a political head of the plant rather than a well informed and experienced head. Dr. Moll is financially independent since he is eligible for a pension [redacted] should he ever 50X1-HUM  
desire to take advantage of it, in addition to which his wife owns considerable property [redacted] 50X1-HUM

b) Dr. Zaucker

Dr. Zaucker is head of the P-Department and the successor to Dr. Johne. Dr. Zaucker is a first-class chemist and although he has not had the opportunity to gather the vast experience of Dr. Johne, his departure from Buna would nevertheless have a serious effect on the plant's production.

c) Dr. Behringer

Dr. Behringer is head of the Aufarbeitungs Abteilung (plans and procedure department) and as such has no capable deputy who could step into his shoes. His departure would likewise gravely hinder the production of Bunawerke.

d) Dr. Herte

Dr. Herte is an extremely competent chemist whose sole task is to try to gain as rapidly as possible the experience gained by Dr. Johne. His departure would probably hinder any further progressive developments in the Bunawerke.

1. [redacted] Comment: Head of the P-Department of Bunawerke, Schkopau.

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